

Abstract

Allelic variation in the *vex2*, *pep27* and *vncS* genes of bacteria responsible for tolerance to antibiotics such as penicillin and vancomycin, is taught. Methods for identifying antibiotic tolerant bacteria and subjects infected with such bacteria, particularly antibiotic tolerant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, are provided. Test kits and components useful for performing such methods, particularly including oligonucleotide primers, are also provided.

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